

Patricia Calvo

Windham Youth Services Director

I am writing this in support of SB 197, not only as a resident of CT (16 Washburn Street, Willimantic) but as Director of Windham Youth Services Bureau. The passing of this bill is of upmost importance to our community. During the last few years, and since the pandemic began, we have seen an increase in the number of families who struggle to make ends meet. Our Collaboration with Windham Public Schools and Grow Windham has enabled us to make food available to these struggling families. They often don't have enough to get personal care items, cleaning supplies, diapers, car repairs, gasoline, etc., making it extremely difficult to maintain employment.

This bill will provide some stability and allow families to get back on track towards independence: in our experience, parents feel defeated when they are unable to provide for basic needs.